

AP Essay - Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Introduction / Thesis	Presents a clear, well developed, complex intro & thesis	Presents a clear, well developed, intro & thesis	Presents a simple intro & thesis with limited development	Intro & thesis are confused or underdeveloped; paper is lacking one or both
Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Knowledge	Demonstrates superior knowledge of the subject matter	Demonstrates good knowledge of the subject matter	Demonstrates average knowledge of the subject matter	Demonstrates superficial or insufficient knowledge of the subject matter
Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Evidence/ Primary Sources	Supports thesis and main ideas with substantial, relevant, & accurate evidence	Supports thesis and main ideas with relevant & helpful evidence	Supports thesis and main ideas with limited, but appropriate evidence	Provides minimal, irrelevant, or insufficient evidence
Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Analysis	Provides an effective analysis that answers all aspects of the question; thoroughly addresses counter-arguments	Provides analysis but may not devote equal weight to all parts of the question; addresses counter-arguments	Analysis is present but superficial; fails to address counter-arguments; does not sufficiently address all parts of the question	Little or no analysis; describes rather than analyzes; only answers one part of the question
Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Organization and Presentation	Paper has strong structure and logical flow, and obvious agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper has structure and logical flow; loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper has weak structure, understandable flow and loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper is wandering; incoherent, has mismatched introduction and conclusion, or lacks either
Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Stylistic Maturity & Control	Paper demonstrates sophisticated and controlled diction through active, precise verbs and impressive, accurate vocabulary. Control over syntax is clear in the lack of redundancies, passive voice, and other verbose constructions. Sentences are also varied in length and style (including opening words) and are fluent, easy to read.	Paper demonstrates controlled diction through active verbs and accurate vocabulary. Control over syntax is generally clear in the lack of redundancies, passive voice, and other verbose constructions, though there may be a few lapses. Sentences are also varied in length and style (including opening words) and are fluent, but may have a few examples of wordy, repetitive, or confusing syntax.	Paper demonstrates loose control over diction with some active verbs and accurate vocabulary, but the verbs are more often passive. Control over syntax is generally present but there may be some redundancies, passive voice, and other verbose constructions. Sentences may lack variety or fluency.	Paper demonstrates little control over diction with mostly passive verbs and ordinary vocabulary. Weak control over syntax may show in redundancies, passive voice, and other verbose constructions. Sentences may lack variety or fluency.
Criteria	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Written Expression	Writing presents no obstacles to understanding; high degree of skill and complexity	Contains only minor errors that do not seriously detract from the essay/argument; writing is skillful	Contains some errors that do not seriously detract from the essay/argument; writing is competent	Contains major errors or numerous minor ones that detract from the essay/argument; writing is inadequate; illegible

AP SCALE	9	8/9	8	7/8	7	6/7	6	5/6	5	4/5	4	3/4	lower
NUMERIC SCALE	90	87	85	81	79	77	75	73	71	69	67	60	50
PERCENTAGE	100%	97%	95%	90%	88%	86%	84%	81%	79%	77%	75%	67%	56%
LETTER GRADE	A	A	A-	A-	B+	B+	B	B-	B-	C+	C	C-	D-